



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|

10/529,576

03/30/2005

Tannichi Ando

040249-0103

7881

22428 7590 08/25/2010
FOLEY AND LARDNER LLP
SUITE 500
3000 K STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20007

EXAMINER

CARTER, CANDICE D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3629

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/25/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/529,576 | Applicant(s) ANDO ET AL. | |
| | Examiner CANDICE D. CARTER | Art Unit 3629 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 March 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/17/2007, 8/2/2005, 3/30/2005</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is a First Action Non-Final on the merits. Claims 1-20, as originally filed, are currently pending and have been considered below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. **Claims 12, 14, 16, 18, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.**

Claims 12, 16, and 20 are directed towards a business designation method comprising a series of control steps.

Examiner contends that a process must be (1) tied to another statutory class (such as a particular machine) or (2) transform underlying subject matter (such as an article or materials) to a different state or thing.

An applicant may show that a process claim satisfies 35 U.S.C. § 101 either by showing that his claim is tied to a particular machine, or by showing that his claim transforms an article. See *Benson*, 409 U.S. at 70. Certain considerations are applicable to analysis under either branch. First, the use of a specific machine or transformation of an article must impose meaningful limits on the claim's scope to impart patent eligibility. See *Benson*, 409 U.S. at 71-72. Second, the involvement of the machine or transformation in the claimed process must not merely be insignificant extra-solution activity. See *Flook*, 437 U.S. at 590. *In re Bilski*.

Art Unit: 3629

In the instant case, the methods recited are not tied to a particular machine, and as such, are not considered to be statutory methods.

Claims 14 and 18 are directed towards a program comprising steps. These steps are not recited as having any corresponding structure and given its broadest reasonable interpretation can be construed as nothing more than program code. Therefore, the claims are directed to nothing more than program code per se and are non-statutory.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. **Claim 6 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.**

Claim 6 recites the limitation "the ancestor". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 6 also recites, "said event response control program associated with said aggregate of the ancestor of said aggregate containing said contents being reproduced, and in correspondence with said event". It is unclear what applicant means by this limitation. Examiner is unsure what an ancestor of an aggregate is. For example; is an ancestor another aggregate that precedes the first aggregate in an event response control program? The specification is also not clear as to what an aggregate is and how it may be associated with an aggregate or an event response control program.

Art Unit: 3629

Clarification is requested. For examination purposes, Examiner interprets this limitation to mean the event response control program is associated with an aggregate that precedes the first aggregate.

Claim 8 recites the limitation "the outside data". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 9 recites "second memory control means", when a first memory control means has not been recited. Examiner will interpret this to mean a memory control means.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. **Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 10, 12-14, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Leymann et al. (6,826,579).**

As per claim 1, and 12-14, Leymann discloses terminal device for designating business based on contents containing a layered system with an aggregate of said contents as the unit thereof and having the designation of said business described therein, comprising (col. 2, line 26-30 and claim 1 discloses a workflow management system in a computer system):

Art Unit: 3629

aggregate output control means for controlling the output of said aggregate based on an event response control program associated with said aggregate, which contains said contents being reproduced, among said event response control programs having described therein a command for an event and associated with each of said aggregates, and in correspondence with said event (col. 3, line 59-col. 4, line 50 discloses a process model consisting of activities, connectors, control flows, conditions, data structures, containers, etc, where the flow of control of the process determines the sequence in which activities of the process are executed by the evaluation of conditions, where a process model is an aggregate, where the results produced by the work represented by an activity are put into a data containers associated with an activity, and where an activity represents a business action that is performed);

contents reproduction control means for controlling the reproduction of said contents contained in said aggregate based on ordinal data associated with said aggregate, for which the output thereof has been designated with said aggregate output control means, among said ordinal data having described therein the reproduction order of said contents associated with each of said aggregates (col. 4, line 51-col. 5, line 42 discloses using connectors to define the sequence of activities and the transmission of data between activities in the process);

and transmission control means for controlling the transmission of the business condition information indicating the condition of said business to a contents provision device for providing said contents based on said event response control program associated with said aggregate containing said contents being reproduced, and in

Art Unit: 3629

correspondence with said event (col. 6, line 14-34 discloses a trigger consisting of an event, condition, and an action, where event parameters are used to provide parameters needed to evaluate the condition and pass data to the action, and where raising the event encompasses the provision of the data).

As per claim 2, Leymann discloses said business condition information contains at least either contents reproduction condition information indicating the reproduction of said contents, or acquisition condition information acquired internally or externally thereof (col. 4, line 51-col. 5, line 2 discloses connectors defining the transmission of data between activities according to the evaluation of conditions; see also col. 6, line 14-34).

As per claim 3, Leymann discloses wherein said acquisition condition information contains at least either event information indicating the acquired event, or sensor information acquired with a sensor (col. 5, line 17-29 and col. 6, line 30-34 discloses event parameters that are used to evaluate the condition and pass data to the action).

As per claim 5, Leymann discloses memory control means for controlling the memory of said business condition information (see col. 1, line 56-col. 2, line 3 and col. 10, line 38-col. 11, line 39).

As per claim 6, Leymann discloses, as best understood, wherein said aggregate output control means controls the output of said aggregate based on said event response control program associated with said aggregate containing said contents being reproduced, and said event response control program associated with said aggregate of the ancestor of said aggregate containing said contents being

Art Unit: 3629

reproduced, and in correspondence with said event (col. 3, line 59-col. 4, line 50 discloses a process model consisting of activities, connectors, control flows, conditions, data structures, containers, process activities, etc. where the flow of control of the process determines the sequence in which activities of the process are executed by the evaluation of conditions, where the results produced by the work represented by an activity are put into a data containers associated with an activity, and where an activity represents a business action that is performed, where a process may be defined by a set of process activities, that are process themselves as disclosed in col. 5, line 56-65, and where in a process containing a set of linked process activities, and process activity will precede another process activity in the process model).

As per claim 7, Leymann discloses reproduction means for reproducing said contents based on the control of said contents reproduction control means and in correspondence with the type of said contents (col. 4, line 42-50 discloses data connectors transferring data from output containers to input containers by joining the output container with an input container and using the workflow manager to map data automatically).

As per claim 9, Leymann discloses second memory control means for controlling the memory of said contents, said event response control program, and said ordinal data (see at least col. 1, line 56-col. 2, line 3 and col. 10, line 38-col. 11, line 39).

As per claim 10, Leymann discloses transmission control means further controls the transmission of the request of said aggregate, for which the reception thereof has been designated from said aggregate output control means, to said contents provision

Art Unit: 3629

device for providing said contents; and the terminal device further comprises: reception control means for controlling the reception of said contents belonging to said requested aggregate provided by said contents provision device, as well as said event response control program and said ordinal data associated with said requested aggregate (col. 6, line 14-34, col. 7, line 35 and line and col. 9, line 44-col. 10, line 35 discloses a triggering system controlling the transmission of data between actions and activities, where the data belongs to the process model, where the triggers themselves are programs/rules).

As per claims 15-18, Leymann discloses a contents provision device, comprising: memory control means for controlling the contents containing a layered system with an aggregate of said contents as the unit thereof and having the designation of said business described therein, and controlling the memory of an event response control program having described therein a command for an event to a terminal device for reproducing said contents associated with each of said aggregates, and ordinal data having described therein the order of reproducing said contents (col. 1, line 55-col. 2, line 13 and col. 10, line 38-col. 11, line 15 discloses a database management system controlling data for the process model and controlling triggers driving the process model);

transmission control means for controlling the transmission to said terminal device, when said aggregate is requested from said terminal device, of said contents belonging to said requested aggregate as well as said event response control program and said ordinal data associated with said requested aggregate (col. 6, line 14-34

Art Unit: 3629

discloses a trigger consisting of an event, condition, and an action, where event parameters are used to provide parameters to the workflow system needed to evaluate the condition and pass data to the action, and where raising the event encompasses the provision of the data);

and reception control means for controlling the reception of the business condition information indicating the condition of said business to be transmitted from said terminal device (col. 5, line 3-42 discloses evaluating the conditions of the process models in order to control the flow of control in a process model).

As per claims 19 and 20, Leymann discloses a business management system constituted from a contents provision device for providing contents containing a layered system with an aggregate of said contents as the unit thereof and having the designation of said business described therein, and a terminal device for designating said business based on said contents;

wherein said contents provision device comprises:

memory control means for controlling the memory of said contents, and controlling the memory of an event response control program having described therein a command for an event to a terminal device and associated with each of said aggregates, and ordinal data having described therein the order of reproducing said contents (col. 1, line 55-col. 2, line 13 and col. 10, line 38-col. 11, line 15 discloses a database management system controlling data for the process model and controlling triggers driving the process model);

Art Unit: 3629

first transmission control means for controlling the transmission to said terminal device, when said aggregate is requested from said terminal device, of said contents belonging to said requested aggregate as well as said event response control program and said ordinal data associated with said requested aggregate (col. 4, line 35-col. 5, line 2 discloses connectors defining the sequence of activities and the transmission of data between activities);

wherein said terminal device comprises:

first reception control means for controlling the reception of said contents, said event response control program, and said ordinal data transmitted from said contents provision device (col. 10, line 13-35 discloses the trigger system accessing data elements passed by an accessing means).

aggregate output control means for controlling the output of said aggregate based on said event response control program associated with said aggregate containing said contents being reproduced among said received event response control programs, and in correspondence with said event (col. 3, line 59-col. 4, line 50 discloses a process model consisting of activities, connectors, control flows, conditions, data structures, containers, etc, where the flow of control of the process determines the sequence in which activities of the process are executed by the evaluation of conditions, where a process model is an aggregate, where the results produced by the work represented by an activity are put into a data containers associated with an activity, and where an activity represents a business action that is performed);

Art Unit: 3629

contents reproduction control means for controlling the reproduction of said contents contained in said aggregate based on said ordinal data associated with said aggregate, for which the output thereof has been designated with said aggregate output control means, among said received ordinal data (col. 4, line 51-col. 5, line 42 discloses using connectors to define the sequence of activities and the transmission of data between activities in the process);

second transmission control means for controlling the transmission of the business condition information indicating the condition of said business to said contents provision device based on said event response control program associated with said aggregate containing said contents being reproduced, and in correspondence with said event (col. 6, line 14-34 discloses a trigger consisting of an event, condition, and an action, where event parameters are used to provide parameters needed to evaluate the condition and pass data to the action, and where raising the event encompasses the provision of the data);

and wherein said contents provision device further comprises:

second reception control means for controlling the reception of said business condition information to be transmitted from said terminal device (col. 5, line 3-42 discloses evaluating the conditions of the process models in order to control the flow of control in a process model).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 4, 8, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leymann in view of Jijina et al. (2004/0203696).

As per claim 4, Leymann discloses all of the elements of the claimed invention but fails to explicitly disclose terminal device according to claim 1, further comprising a sensor for acquiring the sensor information contained in said business condition information.

Jijina discloses a method and system for vehicle data upload having a sensor for acquiring sensor information contained in business condition information (see ¶ 28 and 29).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time the invention was made to modify the generation of event condition action rules of Leymann to include acquiring sensor information as taught by Jijina in order to facilitate the collection and transmission of data (see ¶ 30-33).

As per claim 8, Leymann discloses all of the elements of the claimed invention but fails to explicitly disclose event generation means for acquiring the outside status and generating said event.

Jijina discloses an event generation means for acquiring the outside status and generating said event (§ 33 and 34 discloses collecting vehicle status data and generating an event trigger).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Leymann to include acquiring outside status and generating an event as taught by Jijina in order to use status data as inputs into additional processes (see § 33).

As per claim 11, Leymann discloses all of the elements of the claimed invention but fails to explicitly disclose said aggregate output control means rewrites said ordinal data.

Jijina discloses rewriting data (see § 38).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Leymann to include rewriting data as taught by Jijina since the known technique of rewriting data would have predictably resulted in changing or update data as necessary. See KSR [127 S Ct. at 1739].

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Shaffer et al. (6,094,681) discloses an apparatus and method for automated event notification. Watanabe (7,475,400) discloses a database system and information processing system with process code information.

Art Unit: 3629

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CANDICE D. CARTER whose telephone number is (571) 270-5105. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Thursday 7:30am- 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jamisue Plucinski can be reached on (571)272-6811. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/C. D. C./
Examiner, Art Unit 3629

/Jamisue A. Plucinski/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3629